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#### HILO RAILROAD PLANS AND HOMESTEADING POSSIBILITIES AS DISCUSSED BY L. A. THURSTON

reaching market to make a profit.

Fisher: By rail?

fects the situation?

Thurston: I do.

rious question?

Thurston: Yes.

As to Coastwise Laws.

injurious effect on the situation.

tween here and the mainland?

Interesting Testimony Brought Out by Investigation of Fisher

[Taking up Mr. L. A. Thurston's ket is so small that it has not paid where it was discontinued yesterday garden truck to furnish the local marthe Star-Bulletin publishes below some ket, consequently the local supply

might be asked now.

you applied for 17 acres?

Thurston: 70 acres. Ashford: Have you any idea, Mr. hului and Hilo. The direct Hilo Thurston, that that 40 acres which steamers are freight boats running was stated to be 45 in Hilo-

Thurston: Possibly it is 45-now ning even regularly then. Fruit and that I think of it, it is 45 acres. Railroad Company for strictly railroad of a crop of that kind is too long in purposes?

Future Development.

Thurston: I think so, and I will give pany doing business here? my reasons. In the first place, the Thurston: It does not. We have railroad company has heretofore been often tried to get the United Fruit Taking the beet sugar ternitory that is using approximately 20 acres at Waia- Company to come here. When I was not in California, which is of enormkea. When the Paquilo extension is away I had a talk with the president cus extent all through the central west completed, we will have 891/2 miles of the company in Boston and tried I have seen the American farmer hatsof railroad. There is, as I have stat- to get him to come here. He inform- ing his own-working his own fields. ed, five times as much business in ed me that it was entirely too small Thurston: My information is that that district north of Hilo as there is a market and too far away for that the are almost no Americans raissouth. The possibilities of railroad company to come to. extension on that island, which is larger than the State of Connecticut, are instance, the San Francisco market is Americans in Industry. limited only by a vivid imagination. supplied with bananas? Where the railroad is going, I don't know. I think it is a moral certainty United Fruit Company from the Gulf beets with their own hands. that it will go to Kukuihaele, which is of Mexico. 15 miles further in that direction. It will certainly go to Waimea, where the government has a very large tract that can be opened for homesteadsthe very best kind of land. It will take thirty miles to go to the village of Waimea. It is a moral certainty trict of Kau from the present terminus of the Hutchinson plantation. On two different occasions the Hutchinson people have applied to the railroad company to know whether they would go there. The reply was that there was not business from the plantation alone to warrant the railroad going there. I think-it is a moral certainty that it will eventually go

Ashford: I understand you to say

Thurston: The extension will be by profit out of what are losses of the product to a pineapple cannery or sugway of Puna, which will be about 10 United Fruit Company. I have been miles further, but it will go over al- an earnest advocate of American pasmost level grade, whereas by way of senger steamers to operate here. Glenwood it would be a steep climb. Fisher: Then I understand that. There are in the upper part of Olaa taking everything into consideration. 20,000 acres belonging to the govern- even though you might, there might ment which can be homesteaded. be some advantage in the fruit busi-There is belonging to the Bishop Es- ness, you are not an advocate of retate, back of the Volcano House, part- moving the present restriction with ly wooded, an even larger tract of mag. respect to freight? nificent land-that will require an- Another Vital Point. other 30 or 40 miles of railroad up in Kohala or Kona districts. Line Around Hawaii.

like to have your personal opinion.

Thurston: I am very glad to give it if he is capable of getting a snack grower, to you. I see by the papers that the over his head and if he has the manviews. I have the honor of opening ceedingly simple proposition. Now the first homesteads that were opened take that same man and put him on, under the homestead law in 1889. I say, Kapaa or any of the homestead was Minister of the Interior, which lands that you have been visiting on department had control of the public Hawaii. There isn't a crop that is lands. That was in the monarchy. It now produced in which he has an acwas acknowledged an experiment at cess to the mainland market which he that time, and quite a number of can get to market there—either prohomesteads were opened, which were duce in a year or get to a market in eagerly taken up. There is no ques- a year that is in his control. Crops that it is not necessary for me to go has in the States a market at his door for a living.

principal one?

Three Drawbacks. points-three principal points, in my duce, and he told me that it cost him gestion. It was then that my wife perbe kept, saved and shipped away at the Union, especially on the Pacific stomach has resumed its normal funcmarket is so small that the production farmer would pray the good Lord to again, mentally and physically. of vegetables and chickens and things deliver him. of that kind does not pay-the market Beet Sugar Comparison.

ten acres of cabbages raised by Mr. | then there is the question of difficul-Eames so flood the market that a large ties here. Now you are familiar, are part of them rotted on his hands. you not, with the beet sugar industry in the West?

Thurston: Yes. Another difficulty is that the mar-Fisher: Are you familiar with any statement before Secretary Fisher any large number of people to raise of the irrigation projects of the West? Thurston: By reading.

Fisher: I don't recollect in any of of the most interesting facts and opin- dealers have made their arrangements these that the mainland farmer has ions brought out during the investiga- and placed their orders with Califor- any of these rosy dreams that you tion. .The Hilo railroad's acquisition inia. Consequently, if a farmer comes speak of. He has to clear his land. of property was under discussion.] in with a load of cabbages, he runs he has to plant, before he can put it into a market that has already been into sugar beets. And it was urged Fisher: Mr. Ashford, perhaps if you oversupplied from San Francisco. That on me in a very extensive visit have any questions to ask in regard same kind of Hustration runs through through many of the very best irrito this particular railroad matter, they all vegetables here. Now, as to trans- gated regions that the charges of the portation of vegetables. Steamer con- reclamation service are quite as high Ashford: Mr. Thurston, did I cor- nections are very irregular, conse- as the land was worth. If that is true rectly understand you to state that quently it shuts off almost all of the there is no particular difference bewhen you first applied for Kuhio Bay other islands from attempting to ship tween the farmers' situation there and any vegetable stuff, as the only places that here. where coast steamers touch are Ka-

Thurston: The beet crop is sown in the spring and harvested in the fail. not more than six months in the about five weeks apart and not runground. As a matter of fact, from my reading of largely official reports on vegetables decline to recognize steamthe subject, the beet sugar-beets are Ashford: Have you any idea that er schedules and ripen at the right not being raised by American farmers within a reasonably near time those time. The Wilhelmina has to come to by thir own exertions. I saw the re-45 acres will be required by the Hilo Honolulu first, so that the large part port of the Commissioned of Labor in California when I was in Washington reporting the 98 per cent of the beet Fisher: Is the United Fruit Comwork in the fields of California was done by Japanese or oriental labor.

Fisher: Yes, that was California

ing those, but that they are being rais-Fisher: Now, do you know how, for et by immigrants.

Fisher: I have met hundreds of Thurston: It is supplied by the Americans-farmers who are raising Thurston: I am very glad to hear

Fisher: The beet sugar farmer has not got any place to sell his beets ex-Fisher: How far do you think the cept to a beet sugar mill, and there provision in the coastwise laws af- resually are not a surplus of them in any port or district. Of course, he Thurston: It undoubtedly has an has the advantage that by carrying his beets a little further he can reach Fisher: Do you think it is a se- another beet sugar factory so that if the factory is too exacting he does have something that approximates Fisher: Suppose the coastwise re- competition—that is not always true striction were removed, what reason here. I fail to see any substantial difhave you for believing that there ference on the point you mention as would be adequate transportation be-between the beet sugar farmer in the North or central west or the cane or pineapple frower here. Both of them Thurston: Well - it would enable foreign steamers to operate - sell their product to a practically limenable them to operate at so much ited market, to a mill, just as the pinelower a price that they could make a apple man or sugar man must sell his

> Thurston: The principal difference 13 pineapples and sugar require about two years, beets take only six months. Mainland Problems Many.

Fisher: That is more than made up by this fact—that on the mainland this land is invariably raw land, It all has to be cleared. If course you have ir your lands here the same problem, but you have a great deal of these lands that are now being opened that Thurston: Not until a further at- have long been under cultivation-in that vicinity. That has left out entempt has been made to develop the some cases the homesteader in Ho tirely any possible extensions to the fruit and vegetable business here— waii has the distinct advantage over and that leads up to a third point, the homesteader on the mainland bewhich I think is the vital one, as to cause he goes on land on which he It is entirely within the possibilities why homesteading is not a success, can plant immediately. Of course he that finally this railroad system will and which seems to me, if covered, is has to wait a little longer for his crop, go entirely around the Island of Ha- the line along which success is to be tut I doubt it when you take into conwaii. Under those circumstances, I sought. The question is frequently sideration that he has to clear that think that instead of 40 acres being asked why a small man goes out in land and other preliminary operenough, that before we get through the West and takes up land with his ations. And that to the shortthe 70 acres I asked for will be too pick-ax and a little capital and makes er time of the actual entry of a success, whereas a higher class of the land and the production of Fisher: Now, Mr. Thurston, you man comes to Hawaii and makes a the first crop. Take the fruit crop have referred to homesteading of failure, and I size it up from perhaps in Utah or in Washington or Oregonthese lands—government lands. That not a complete knowledge of the sit- anywhere through the central west leads me to the general question on uation to be conclusive. I simply sub- where the great fruit lands have been which we would be glad to have your mit it for what it is worth. I have developed—of course the waiting there view—as to the practicability of home been informed and from what I have it just as long as here. I would like steading here on the Islands—the type seen in passing through the country to know whether you know of any difof homesteading—there are more than that a man who takes up land in arid ficulty here in the way of getting fruit one—that you think feasible. I would country or through any district that on the market that has not been met the Federal government is opening up, and overcome by the mainland fruit

Thurston: Without knowing what subject has been very exhaustively ual skill and power to put in a crop it costs your Western farmer to clear discussed before you and it would not of grain or wheat and deliver it to, his land and get it in shape, I venture add to anything to go into the types, the railroad station, where he has a to question your suggestion that the but on the general subject of home- market-all this question of getting expense of clearing the land and getsteading I have very pronounced a market is eliminated—he has an exting it in shape is as great as it is

[The statement will be continued

THE EDITOR'S BRAIN

Did Not Work Well Under Coffee.

A brain worker's health is often intion that homesteading up to the pres- -pineapples take more than a year; jured by coffee, badly selected food ent time has not been the success that many of them two and three years to and sedentary habits. The experience many of those who advocated it and mature. Therefore, he has, in the first of the managing editor of a large pros still advocate it hoped for. It is not place, when he is located in Hawaii. perous newspaper with Postum illussuccessful for a variety of reasons, a long time to wait for a return, as trates the necessity of proper feeding which have been put to you so fully against half a year in the States. He for the man who depends on his brain

where he can get his cash. Take the | "Up to three years ago," writes this Fisher: What do you think is the homesteader here. He has first to gentleman, "I was a heavy coffee get his stuff to the landing. I know drinker. I knew it was injuring me. of one producer who has raised as fine It directly affected my stomach and Thurston: There are two principal corn as Iowa or Nebraska can pro- I was threatened with chronic indiopinion. The first is the lack of ade- more to get his corn to the landing suaded me to try Postum. The good quate transportation, the second is the than it would cost him to buy corn results were so marked that I cannot lack of a market, the third is the gen- from the mainland. He has to pay say too much for it. When first preeral lack of encouragement which the freight to Kahului or Hilo, then the pared I did not fancy it, but inquiry leading people of the country in the freight to San Francisco. Then waen developed the fact that the cook had locations of the homesteads have given he has got on the ground he is a small not boiled it long enough, so next time to the movement. As to transporta man in a strange country and hash't I had it properly made and was charmtion-and I will say there is a rea money enough or capital to go there ed with it. Since that time coffee has son which should also come in there, himself. He is in the hands of the had no place on my table save for that there are comparatively few, al- middle man-and I will say that from guests. Both myself and wife are most no, industries in this country my observation of what the middle fond of this new cup which 'cheers which a small cultivator can engage man in the fruit industry means in but does not inebriate in a much truer in and produce something which can San Francisco or any other city in and fitter sense than coffee. My leisure, or, in other words, the local Coast, he is of the type of which any tions and I am now well and strong

"I am confident that coffee is a poison to many, and I have recommendcan be flooded by having an extra car- Fisher: Now, Mr. Thurston, there ed Postum with great success to a load of cabbages come to town. In are two things you said-the first is number of my friends who were suf fact, I saw with my own eyes about the difficulty of the mainland farmer; fering from the use of coffee."



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